

British Museum (Natural History)



EXOTIC HOMOPTERA

SERIES No. 1

5 Cards in Colour

Set E 17

One Shilling



EXOTIC HOMOPTERA

(a) *Tosena mearesiana*    (b) *Gacana electa*    (c) *Platypleura mira*

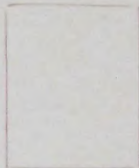
Natural size

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

# POST CARD

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CORRESPONDENCE

(FOR ADDRESS ONLY)





EXOTIC HOMOPTERA

(a) *Angamiana aetherea*      (b) *Gaeana festiva*      (c) *Gaeana hageni*

Natural size

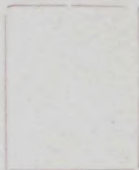
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# EXOTIC HOMOPTERA

(a) *Tosena splendida* (b) *Platypleura octoguttata* (c) *Gaeana atkinsoni*

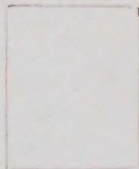
Natural size

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# EXOTIC HOMOPTERA

(a) *Gaeana vestita*      (b) *Huechys incarnata*      (c) *Balanta octonotata*

Natural size

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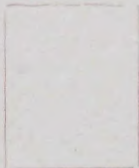
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# EXOTIC HOMOPTERA

(a) *Fulgora intricata*    (b) *Fulgora heringi*    (c) *Fulgora maculata*

Natural size

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## EXOTIC HOMOPTERA.

### Series No. 1.

With the exception of those on the last card, all the insects figured in this series belong to the Cicadidae, a large family of the sub-order Homoptera. The Homoptera together with the Heteroptera form the order Rhynchota (Bugs), distinguished from all other insects by the piercing and sucking mouth parts and by the incomplete metamorphosis. In the Cicadas the head is broad with two large compound eyes, and there are three simple ones placed triangularly on the crown. The body is stout and torpedo shaped, and the front thighs are thickened and toothed. The wings which are large and powerful with strongly marked veins, are usually transparent and shining, but in many tropical forms, as in those represented on these cards, they are opaque and highly coloured, the colour being due to pigment and not to scales as in the butterflies and moths. The male Cicadas produce a loud and shrill note by the rapid vibration of a drum-like membrane in the metathorax, but the females are songless. The song of the Cicada was familiar even to the ancient Greeks, and in some countries these insects are kept in cages like song-birds. Cicadas are the noisiest of all insects, the note of some tropical species being very loud indeed. In view of the loudness of their song, it is remarkable that no auditory organs have so far been detected even in the female, although it has been said that the noise attracts the females to the males.

The female Cicada inserts her eggs by means of a powerful ovipositor, into the branches of trees and shrubs. After a few weeks the young larvae hatch out, drop to the ground and burrow below the surface, where they live for some considerable time by sucking the sap from the roots of various trees. At the end of this period, the larva works its way to the surface and passes into a semi-pupal condition. After a few days the mature insect escapes by splitting the pupal skin along the back. In the case of the North American *Cicada septemdecim*, the larva lives underground for nearly seventeen years, and it is possible that some of the little known species may live for much longer periods. Cicadas are probably the longest lived of all insects.

Over one thousand species have been described from different parts of the world, but they are almost entirely confined to the warmer climates and are especially abundant in the tropics. The family is represented in Britain by one species, *Cicadetta montana*, which occurs sparingly in the New Forest. Cicadas are apparently defenceless creatures, and fall a prey to innumerable enemies in the shape of birds, reptiles, other insects, and even man, the larvae being captured and eaten by the natives of Tenasserim and other places. Some species reach an enormous size, *Pomponia imperatoria* from the Malay States measuring eight inches across the wings.

PLATE 101 (a). *Tosena mearesiana*. This handsome Cicada comes from Sikkim in N. India; the females are smaller than the males with rather paler wings. Other members of the genus extend from N. E. India, through Burma to the Malay Archipelago. Nothing is known of the life history.

- E 101 (b). *Gaeana electa*. This is a rare Cicada from Ton'kin in Indo-China.
- E 101 (c). *Platypleura* } *mira*. This is another Cicada from Indo-China. The extraordinary moth-like appearance of the wings is common to the whole of this large genus, which is widely distributed over Africa and the Orient.
- E 102 (a). *Tosena splendida*. This beautiful insect comes from India, Burma, and Assam ; it differs from other species of the genus in having the wings semi-transparent.
- E 102 (b). *Platypleura octoguttata*. This species is the commonest and most widely distributed of its genus, in India ; it also occurs in Ceylon.
- E 102 (c). *Gaeana atkinsoni*. This Cicada seems to be restricted to North India. All the members of this genus have broad and very brightly coloured wings.
- E 103 (a). *Angamiana aetherea*. As in the case of the majority of tropical Cicadas, nothing is known about this delicately coloured species ; it comes from the Nága Hills in Assam.
- E 103 (b). *Gaeana festiva*. This is the most widely distributed species of the genus and extends from North India to the Malay Archipelago.
- E 103 (c). *Gaeana hageni*. Apparently restricted to Sumatra.
- E 104 (a). *Gaeana vestita*. This is another rare Cicada from Yunnan in Indo-China.



E 104 (b). *Huechys incarnata*. This pretty species is confined to the Malay Archipelago and, although common in Java, is not found on the adjacent continent. Its continental relative, *H. sanguinea*, is used by the Chinese for medical purposes, being especially used in the treatment of madness.

E 104 (c). *Balinta octonotata*. Occurs in North India, Assam, and Burma.

E 105 (a). *Fulgora intricata*. This insect, in common with the others on this card, belongs to the Fulgoridae or "lantern flies," a family of Homoptera very distinct from the Cicadidae. In the genus represented on this card the head is always produced into an elongated structure which was at one time believed to have luminous properties; hence the common name of the family. This particular species comes from Borneo.

E 105 (b). *Fulgora heringi*. This is another beautiful "lantern fly" from Borneo.

E 105 (c). *Fulgora maculata*. This is a common species in Ceylon. The white spots on the wings are due to a white waxy secretion.

Set E 17.

February, 1924.